

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1470

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DISCUSSES FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE
ON INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S YEAR

REF: MEXICO 10523 (DECEMBER 1974)

1. ON FEBRUARY 15, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PRESIDED OVER A CEREMONY CELEBRATING "WOMAN'S DAY;" HIS REMARKS GENERALLY FOCUSED UPON THE UN-SPONSORED SUBJECT CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD IN MEXICO CITY NEXT JUNE. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS REMARKS FOLLOW.

2. ECHEVERRIA SAID HIS THOUGHTS, AFTER FURTHER "MATURING," WOULD CONSTITUTE HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE MEXICAN DELEGATION TO THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE. THE MEETING, HE SAID, SHOULD BE AN EVENT WHICH WOULD HAVE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS, IN THE RICH INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, IN THE GREAT NUCLEAR POWERS "WHICH TRY TO DIVIDE THE WORLD INTO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE," AND IN THE POOR AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHOSE POPULATIONS MAKE UP-THREE-QUARTERS OF MANKIND. IF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT COUNTRIES, THOSE REPRESENTING THE CONSUMER SOCIETY, TRY TO RESTRICT THE CONFERENCE TO THE CONSIDERATION ONLY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN SUCH COUNTRIES, THE CONFERENCE WILL FAIL. THE MEETING, IN ECHEVERRIA'S VIEW, SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THE NEED FOR A BETTER ORGANIZATION OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE RICH INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND THE POOR COUNTRIES. NO WOMAN IS MORE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, HE THOUGHT, THAN SHE WHO CANNOT PROVIDE BREAD FOR HER CHILDREN OR SEND THEM TO SCHOOL,
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AND THIS ARISES FROM AN UNJUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

ECHEVERRIA RELATED THIS SITUATION--AND ITS REMEDY--TO HIS CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, APPROVED BY THE LAST UNGA. (BEFORE LEAVING THIS FAVORITE TOPIC, ECHEVERRIA RECALLED HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH SALVADOR ALLENDE AND STRUCK OUT AT "POLITICAL INTERVENTION" AND THE "INTERVENTION OF THE GREAT POWERS...IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES THROUGH PROPAGANDA AND ALL MANNER OF INTRIGUE AND INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE.") ECHEVERRIA CALLED FOR THE PROMPT INTEGRATION OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE SO THAT IT CAN STUDY THESE PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO FORMULATE "A MEXICAN THESIS, PROFOUND AND VALUABLE...WHICH (MAY INFLUENCE) THE SPIRIT OF THE CONFERENCE."

3. COMMENT: ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH SEEMED MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN THE SITUATION CALLED FOR; THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE MEXICAN DELEGATION WILL GO AS FAR--IF NOT, IN ITS ZEAL FARTHER--THAN ECHEVERRIA SUGGESTS, IN ITS EFFORTS TO GIVE THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE DIRECTION AND THRUST OF A PECULIARLY MEXICAN NATURE. HE CALLED FOR A "POLITICAL" CONFERENCE AND THAT, IF THE GOM CAN ACHIEVE IT, IS WHAT THE JUNE MEETING WILL BE. THE EMBASSY CITED IN REFTEL EXAMPLES OF GOM EFFORTS TO MANIPULATE CONFERENCES HELD IN MEXICO. ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE MEXICAN CHAIRMAN HAS ABUSED HIS POSITION TO FOSTER AND ADVANCE NATIONALISTIC MEXICAN OBJECTIVES, FREQUENTLY UNRELATED TO THE PURPOSES OF THE MEETINGS AND OFTEN BY MEANS OF SUCH SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE DEVICES AS EXTENDING OR WITHHOLDING RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS IN A PARLIAMENTARY CONTEXT. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT, IN PLANNING FOR THE CONFERENCE, CONSIDER MOST CAREFULLY ECHEVERRIA'S COMMENTS ABOVE AND THE REFTEL UNDER REFERENCE. DELEGATES REPRESENTING THE US SHOULD BE BRIEFED FULLY ON MEXICAN INITIATIVES AND PROCEDURES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS DURING THE PAST YEAR OR SO AND SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE EFFORTS TO KEEP THE MEETING ON TRACK AND TO PROTECT US INTERESTS, TO THE EXTENT THESE MAY BE THREATENED BY MEXICAN MEETINGSMANSHIP. IN ORDER TO PERFORM EFFECTIVELY IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE DELEGATION INCLUDED WOMEN OFFICERS SKILLED IN CONFERENCE TACTICS AS PLAYED BOTH IN THE UN AND IN THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEMS. JOVA

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